

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

PCB Piezotronics

New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

PCB Piezotronics Reduces Changeover Time and Increases Job Capacity□

Client Profile:

PCB Piezotronics, Inc. is a manufacturer of sensors and process control instrumentation for a wide variety of industrial applications. Founded in 1967, the Depew, New York, company employs about 440 people, including approximately 300 production workers. The company conducts manufacturing operations in a modern, single-level facility on a three-shift basis. Annual sales are growing steadily and are projected to be in the \$55 million range for 2004.

Situation:

PCB's machine shop fabricates high tolerance parts for both internal and external customers. Recently, the company experienced an increase in the number of orders as well as a decrease in the amount per order, resulting in a significant increase in the number of changeovers. While participating in a Lean manufacturing training, the company became aware of the Western New York Technology Development Center's (WNYTDC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, expertise in set up reduction. Realizing the importance of reducing changeover time, the company requested WNYTDC's assistance.

Solution:

WNYTDC worked with PCB in the design and build of a standard tool holding plate that would incorporate the most commonly utilized tools, which would eliminate the removal and attachment of tools from job to job. As a result of working with WNYTDC, PCB has experienced continued improvement in all areas.

Results:

- * Decreased individual changeover time by 25 percent.
- * Decreased weekly changeover time by 8 percent.
- * Increased job capacity per week by 22 percent.
- * Improved on-time delivery.
- * Easier training of new operators.
- * Increased scheduling flexibility.
- * Streamlined tool kitting procedure for all work centers.
- * Decreased programming time.

Testimonial:

"With the implementation of these lean manufacturing techniques, PCB has been able to stay ahead of our tremendous growth."

Mark Kline□Machine Shop Manager□

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